

(a) whether it is a fact that a plenty of unutilised waters of Pampa and Idukki Rivers of Kerala is flowing into Arabian Sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to divert this unutilised water towards South Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to implement this proposal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (f). The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) of the Government of India has identified 17 Water Transfer links under the Peninsular component. Some of these links envisages transfer of West flowing rivers towards east to meet the water requirements of drought affected areas etc.

There are no Pampa & Idukki rivers in Kerala. However, NWDA has prepared a feasibility report of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaipper link which envisages dams on Pamba Kar Ar, Achankovil Kal Ar and Achankovil for diversion of water to irrigate land in drought prone districts of Tirunelveli, Kattabomman, Chidambaranar and Kamaraj districts of Tamil Nadu and generation of peaking power of 500 MW and regulated releases during lean period in Vembanad lake.

Implementation of the proposal will depend upon concurrence of the concerned State Governments and various other factors.

Percentage growth of people receiving higher Education

3920. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of growth in the number of people receiving higher education in the last five years;

(b) the percentage of graduates in the country; and

(c) the measures, the Government are taking to enhance access of new entrants to higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission

(UGC), the percentage of growth of total enrolment in higher education during the last 5 years is as under:

1990-91	7.0%
1991-92	6.9%
1992-93	5.1%
1993-94	5.1%
1994-95	5.1%

(b) In 1994-95, 88% of the total enrolment of students in the higher education system was at the under-graduate level.

(c) According to UGC, at present, there is no problem regarding absorption of entrants in the higher education system.

Expenditure on National Highways

3921. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on reconstruction and recarpeting of National Highways in each State during the period 1.4.95 and 30.6.96; and

(b) the extent to which the expenditure is likely to be incurred for the said purpose particularly in respect of West Bengal and other North Eastern States till 31.3.97 and in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A Statement is annexed.

(b) Demands for Grants are yet to be finalised. Therefore, it is difficult to give the details.

STATEMENT

Expenditure on National Highways

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
		1995-96	1996-97
		Allotment	(up to July) Allotment
No.	State/UTs		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4010.00	536.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	1650.00	425.00
4.	Bihar	1750.00	400.00
5.	Chandigarh	25.00	6.00
6.	Delhi	400.00	100.00

No. State/UTs	1995-96 Allotment	1996-97 (up to July) Allotment
7. Goa	500.00	175.00
8. Gujarat	4398.00	700.00
9. Haryana	5535.00	2399.00
10. Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	300.00
11. Jammu and Kashmir	50.00	25.00
12. Karnataka	2600.00	875.00
13. Kerala	3980.00	1125.00
14. Madhya Pradesh	2020.00	260.00
15. Maharashtra	2889.00	485.00
16. Manipur	500.00	90.00
17. Meghalaya	600.00	225.00
18. Nagaland	50.00	2.50
19. Orissa	3304.00	2035.00
20. Pondicherry	50.00	12.00
21. Punjab	5860.00	1900.00
22. Rajasthan	6070.00	1350.00
23. Tamil Nadu	1100.00	476.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	7670.00	2235.00
25. West Bengal	3810.00	860.00
Total :	60431.00	16996.50

Birth Control

3922. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce any improved variety of pill for birth control;

(b) whether W.H.O. has made any suggestion in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to introduce a new birth control pill namely 'Centchroman' which is a non-steroidal and non-hormonal oral contraceptive pill once a week pill for women in the National Family Welfare Programme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Haj House Bombay

3923. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the construction of the Haj House in Bombay is complete since long but has not yet been inaugurated with the result that Haj pilgrims continue to face severe inconvenience;

(b) if so, since how long is the inauguration is pending;

(c) the difficulties in the inauguration and commissioning of the Haj House; and

(d) by what time the Haj House is expected to be inaugurated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Construction of Haj House in Mumbai was completed in 1987. However, the high-rise building could not be inaugurated and fully put into use because of the existence of a canteen in its premises, the location of which prevents the movement of fire tenders around the building within the compound. Consequently, clearance from the fire control Department and occupation certificate from the Municipal authorities has not been made available so far.

After construction of the Haj House building had been undertaken, revised guidelines have been promulgated by the Railway authorities regarding distance and height of buildings from the railways tracks. Consequently, No Objection Certificate from Railway authorities is also pending.

(d) Efforts are being made to obtain pending clearances and make the Haj House fully operational. Settlement has been negotiated with the canteen owner and alternative premises are being built for him in the adjacent plot. Various repair and maintenance jobs necessitated by disuse of the building have also been undertaken. Ground and lower storeys are already in use as permitted by Municipal Rules and Hajis were accommodated in the building during Haj-1996. It is the endeavour of Central Haj Committee and Government to expedite clearances and make the Haj House fully operational as early as possible.